

ACFD REPORT TO RCDC

Sept 2025

<https://acfd.ca/>

ACFD Structure

The ACFD Board for the period to June 30th, 2027 is:

Dr. Ben Davis, Dalhousie University - President
Dr. Anastasia Cholakis, University of Manitoba – Vice-President/Treasurer
Dr. Jim Lai, University of Toronto – Past President
Dr. Walter Siqueira, University of Saskatchewan - Chair, Deans' Committee
Dr. Félix Girard, l'Université de Montréal - Chair, Academic Affairs Committee
Dr. Jim Posluns, University of Toronto – Chair, Clinical Affairs Committee
Dr. Mary Amin, University of Alberta – Chair, Research Affairs Committee
Dr. Paul Allison, McGill University - Executive Director

ACFD also has four standing committees:

Deans' Committee

The Deans Committee includes the ACFD President, Executive Director and the Dean, Director or equivalent from each Canadian dental program.

Academic Affairs Committee

The Academic Affairs Committee includes the Associate Dean Academic or equivalent from each Canadian dental program.

Clinical Affairs Committee

The Clinical Affairs Committee includes the Clinic Director or equivalent from each Canadian dental program.

Research Affairs Committee

The Research Affairs Committee includes the Associate Dean of Research or equivalent from each Canadian dental program.

ACFD Mission and goals

The ACFD's mission is to be the national voice and resource for academic dentistry in Canada by helping advance the teaching, research, and service activities of our members and by facilitating collaboration and communication among our members and related organizations. The ACFD has five main goals.

1. To establish the visibility of ACFD as the focal point of academic dentistry in Canada.
2. To promote faculty development at Canadian Faculties of Dentistry.
3. To facilitate collaboration among the Canadian Faculties of Dentistry to enhance teaching, research, and leadership/management.
4. To advocate on behalf of the Canadian Faculties of Dentistry to promote the interests of academic dentistry.
5. To be a national resource for areas of academic interest.

2025 Awards

Distinguished Service Award: **Dr. Arto Demirijian, l'Université de Montréal (posthumously)**

National Dental Teaching Award: **Dr. Timothy Wilson, Western University**

ACFD-CADR National Dental Research Award: **Dr. Gilles Lavigne, l'Université de Montréal**

Biennial Conference/Canadian Oral Health Summit (COHS)

The next summit will be hosted by the University of Saskatchewan, in Saskatoon in June 18-20, 2026.

Dental Research

ACFD has committed to financially supporting the Network for Canadian Oral Health Research (NCOHR), whose core funding through CIHR/IMHA was renewed until the end of 2027. Also, a research team with representatives from all 10 schools has been awarded funding by CIHR for the oral health element of the Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS), cycle 7. The field work started in autumn 2022 and completed in December 2024. Data and biosamples collected in the CHMS will be made available for analyses in early 2026. CIHR/IMHA has released RFAs and related research funding to make best use of the available data. Finally, the National Oral Health Research Strategy (NOHRS; <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/52773.html>) was announced at the COHS in June 2024 and an implementation team is driving it forward.

Bridge Training to Dental Practice in Canada Program

(see <https://acfd.ca/training-programs/btdpc-program/>)

Employment and Social Development Canada awarded ACFD a significant grant over the period January 2024 to December 2027 to develop and pilot test the Bridge Training to Dental Practice in Canada (BTDP) program targeting general dentist graduates of non-accredited programs for training to support their rapid licensure in Canada. This would be a third pathway for such graduates in addition to the advance-standing programs and the NDEB exam pathway. The call for candidates and the admissions process for the first pilot cohort was initiated in early 2025. The first pilot cohort of the BTDP program will start in September 2025. ACFD has made a request to CDAC to initiate the process of accrediting the BTDP program, ideally in time for the second pilot cohort, which will start in September 2026.

On-going issues

The on-going issues for ACFD, concerning which we are in regular communication with relevant stakeholders are:

- **The implications of the new Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) announced by the federal government for dental schools:** The CDCP targets the same patient cohorts that schools do, so may reduce schools' patient numbers and thereby affect clinical training. ACFD has been in communication with Health Canada to explain this "unintended consequence" and seek solutions.
- **OHAF:** ACFD and all schools submitted multiple applications to OHAF streams 1 and 2. A large number of the stream 1 applications made by schools were successful and we await the results of the stream 2 competition.
- **CDAC:** the re-organization of CDAC, including its new budget model, new accreditation formats and the use of the results are important on-going issues for the faculties

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Ben Davis
President, ACFD